# POKER KEEPS YOU GUESSING.

TWO INSTANCES OF THE VAGA-RIES OF LUCK.

Three Skilful Players Pitted Against Two College Lads Whose Desire Was to Spend Their Money—Twists of Fortune That Gave All the Cash to the Lambs

The hot sport stood about 11 A. M. leaning against a lamppost on the shady side of Long Acre Square. He was fitting the inside edge of the sole of his left shoe to a crack in the sidewalk and the expression on his countenance seemed to indicate that he was vastly discontented. Whether this was because the edge of the leather and the edge of the stone were not mates, or whether something else disgusted him, was not apparent

To him presently came one of his cronies a dark-complexioned man with a bright emile and a red flower in his buttonhole. "Mornink," he said briskly, as he stopped and looked to see what the other was doing

with his foot "Mornink," responded the hot sport with-

out looking up. His friend looked at him quizzically for a moment, and then, pulling out his eigar case, produced two big black cigars and some matches. When the tobacco was well alight, he said with friendly interest:

"Up against it?" N-no; not exactly," said the hot sport "I was only thinking that mebbe a little nonotony once in a while might be good for the nerves. This lightning change act

cheers you up, so to speak; but as a continuous performance it gets a little wearing as you grow old, and I celebrated my hundred and fourth birthday yesterday. Bad as that?" asked his friend.

"Yep. I didn't think it, either, till ever ing. It was me for the money all day, and ouldn't like to tell you the size of the roll I skinned when I got my dinner check. I was feeling that chipper the waiter caught a V

"I'd copped out a wad in the street before 2 o'clock and picked three winners at Brighton in the afternoon, and there wasn't anything between me and a stable of automos but a few days' time. You know the feel when they come your way like that

"Well. I had it and the dinner was a dream oure. I wouldn't pick that five-spot up in the street if I knew it was the same one. We hadn't finished the eigarettes when

a messenger brought me a note from Billy, to say that there was a game of poker on for the special delectation of two Harvard men that couldn't find any convenient way near home to get rid of all the money their fond papas insisted on sending 'em-He was keeping a seat for me, but he coulda't promise to keep it long.

"Well, naturally, you couldn't see me for dust, driving down to the hotel, and when I reached the room and saw the layout I wouldn't have sold that sent for a Billy had caught that red-headed stock broker you know him." the other man nodded "for the fifth seat, and the two Harvard men were there all right Say, them two wa'n't any plated goods They were the originals,

"One was the Charley Horse and the other was the Willy Boy, and they must famous. All that Charley Horse seemed to be doing was to try to look intelligent, with the betting eight to one agains and Willy Boy had three-sheet posters all over the

walls,
"It was a hot night and he had his coar
and vest off and his sleaves rolled up's
you could see his diamend bracelet, and
the photograph of his cherus girl done on
his skin and hand pair ted afferward, just
next to his vaccination mark. Charley was
It, but he was f. h.
"Do you know then was many marked."

"Do you know there was just a minute when I was mean enough to begrudge the whack to Billy. It looked so casy I wanted to hog it, and I reckon that was, maybe, what hoodcoed the graft. Course, I wouldn't ha' done Billy no dirt, but there was just that streak o' yellow that made me think of it. I didn't think it was in me. "It was table stakes for a thousand apiece to start. They were making the game when ostart. They were making the game when came in, and the stock broker wanted to show if that would be too heavy for me.

He said it nasty, too.
"I never did like him, and I knew he had me down for a piker because I made a teef when he sold me out on a little deal without giving me a chance to make good on my margin. So I says:
"Make it a million if you like,' and I

flashed my wad. "It was bigger than his, tut we all knew his check was good for anything he'd sign. As for the Harvard men, they could comb money out of their hair, but I wasn't rattled. As I said, it had been me for the money all day, "Say, things come sudden in poker, don't

they? The papers say that when that vol-cano spilled over down in the West Indies while ago, there was some kind of a warning to get out from under, but draw-poker ain't

no such kind of a mountain or, if it is, I never learned the signals.

"We hadn't played two rounds when the first shock came. Willy Boy opened a jack pot for the size of it, and Billy boosted it. Charley Horse laid down, and me, having

charley Horse laid down, and me, having a pat of tens full, stayed.

"There didn't seem to be any sense in raising again. The stock broker was still to hear from, and Willy Boy was more likely to stay against one raise than two.

"Well, the stock broker came in and Willy Boy made good. It was picking money off the trees where it grows, and all was bothering me was how to get a cell after it came to

the trees where it grows, and all was bothering me was how to get a call after it came to me to raise it after the draw.

"The way I figured it was that I'd better look foolish and study a lot before standing pat, and then put up my pile after studying some more. They might think I was bluffing. So that was what I did, and I reckon it was pretty good poker, at that.

"There was something doing, though. Willy Boy had first draw, for the stock broker was dealing, and he took his time. Finally he says:

Finally he says: " T'll split openers. Give me three cards.' and he laid a chip on his discard to show

after.
"Of course, there wasn't but one thing to
think. It was plain he'd opened on two
small pair and was drawing to one of 'em.
You couldn't think anything eles, could Of course not

"Well, Billy took two cards, and kind o' looked over at me. I didn't pass no signal, for I knowed he'd know enough to leave it to me when he saw me stand pat. And the stock broker, he took one.

"Willy Boy threw in a white chip without looking at his draw, and Billy lingered. I followed my programme and it was up to Willy Boy to contribute if he thought I was bluffing, for the stock broker laid down.

was cluding, for the stock broker laid down. So Willy Boy looked at his cards.

"He didn't say a word, but he shoved his pile forward, and Billy had a chance to think. He still had his three kings, and it struck him as good poker to call. I'd played my part too well, it seems, and he sized me for a bluff, so his pile dropped into the maelstrom. "Say, Willy Boy had split his openers all

night. They was jacks, and he'd taken three cards to the jack and king of spades. And the three he caught was the queen, ten and

nine o'spades.

It was Billy and me to the boneyard, of course, for neither of us had more than a few scattering reds left, Willy Boy's pile being almost as big as ours. But there asn't anything about that sort of play

A man that would pay a stack of reds to

The Only Newspaper That Gathers All the News

draw to two spades was the kind of a player you go looking for with dark lanterns, and not even college boys' luck was likely to give him a straight flush again in the same sitting. Losing a tooth didn't make me think I was due at the dentist's for a whole

"It made me play a little closer to my collar button, though. Billy was banking and I noticed he put a five-hundred-dollar bill in the bank roll against the thousand dollars in chips that he bought, so I knew he was shy and I'd have to make good for him if he lost again, but even that didn't scare me out. My roll was still big enough to call for an elastic band 'round it to keep it together, and I knew Billy.

"I knew the stock broker, too, and I didn't feel as if I needed any introduction to Willy Boy after he'd made the kind o' play he did, even if he did win. The man

play he did, even if he did win. The man I wasn't acquainted with was Charley Horse, and it didn't seem to me that anybody need be the seventh son of a seventh son to read the pairs of his hand. It was spread out all over his face. You know you fool yourself, sometimes, knowing too

"Well, Charley Horse he seemed to get Well, Charley Horse he seemed to get excited, seeing what Willy Boy had done, and he started in, drawing to nothing, and getting nothing, till he'd bought again, twice. It did sure seem like all that was needed was a fair run o' the cards an' a little good, sound, poker sense to fetch Billy an' me out o' the game with an oil shine apiece.

shine apiece.
"Well, there didn't seem to be much the matter with the cards for the next half hour or so. There wasn't any killing, and if everybody had been playing poker there wouldn't bave been anything lost or

won, to speak about. won, to speak about.

"But say, those two were the easiest ever, and the stock-broker lost all sense of propriety, reachin' out after the chips they was scatterin' 'round. Whenever they'd be', either one of 'em, he'd call, knowin' the chances was he had 'em bear, and if either Billy or me had anything like a hand all we had to do was to call, or boost it if we hannened to be strong. happened to be strong

"Honest, there wasn't any call for science. All you had to do was to sit under the tree and wait for the cocoanuts to drop in your

lap.

It was too bright to last. Charley Horse averaged about two blues a minute, and Willy Boy wasn't far behind, so, as the best the stock broker could do was to stay about even, it was us for the coin till we got careless. "Then the lightning struck again. Charley Horse was in every time, no matter what it cost, and was pulling one, two, three, and even four cards, and taking down

about one pot in twenty-five, till you'd ha' thought he'd gone mad, but all he did was to stretch himself and yawn, and finally begin to complain because the game was

"What's the good playin' for beans?'
he said 'It takes too long to lose your
money this way. Let's take off the roof.'
And he laid his roll on the table. The stockbroker, he was game, but he

hadn't over about a thousand in his pocket "Till go you,' he said, 'if you'il take my check.' And we all said that was satisfactory.

Willy Boy said he didn't mind. He said.

hadn't a great deal on his person, he said, but he could get any thing he wanted from the house, and he'd just as soon play out under the sky as any other way. "Billy said all he asked for was a show

"Billy said all he asked for was a show for his pile, and he'd keep up with the procession as long as he could, so that fetched it up to me, and I didn't want anything better. My wad was as big as Charley Horse had flashed, and I pulled it out.

"It's all I have,' I told 'em, 'but I'll go for that.

"Say, that game lasted just one more hand. At least, I don't know. Maybe there's three of 'em playing yet, but Billy and I came out in the cool of the morning, looking for air,b fore the cards was shuffled again.

again

"It wasn't any phony deal, at that, for I had the deck myself, and I don't fight cripples with knives. It would ha' been rubbin' it in to stack the cards against that

"It was a jackpot, and Willy Boy opened it for the size of it, which was an even hundred. Charley Horse looked at two of his cards and came in. As it turned out ing."

afterward all he had seen was a pair of sixes, but that was the kind of a game he was playing, and we all knew it, so he didn't

for the odds in the pot, with the stockbroker still to hear from, so I threw in my hun-dred. The stock broker, he studied quite a while, but finally he came in and called for three cards.

took one. Billy, three and drew to his acce, and I filled my flush, king high.
"Willy Boy threw in a white chip without looking, and Charley Horse pushed his wad into the pot before he looked at his

draw.

"Now I leave it to you if you could size that play up for anything else but two pairs or a bluff, or maybe three of a kind at the outside. Mind you. I had been playing with him for two hours, and he had played just that earl of a game.

had played just that sort of a game. 'And he'd just kick about how slow the olay was, when it had gone fast enough for the average citizen. Any how, I hadn't ar y coubt in my mind.

"Billy hadn't either, for he called for his pile, having caught the third ace, and I showed mine as a matter of course. The stock broker laid down, and we had to count up. It proved that my pile was about four hundred bigger than Charley Horse's and he fumbled 'round in his clothes

Horse's and he fumbled 'round in his clothes for a few minutes before he found another five hundred dollar bill.

"Willy Boy had shown his openers and laid down, and Charley Horse couldn't raise again, because I was all in, and, of course. Billy wasn't in it. But he called, and even then I was sure of the pot.

"Well, he had two pairs all right—two pairs of sixes."

After we reached the street I found about six dollars in change in my left hand pocket and I went 'round to Canfield's and called the turn once for that, so I have pocket money enough for the day, but I'm looking for those automobiles

ain't much monotony about it

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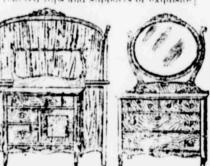
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